



Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island

Pre-Visit Activities for School Groups

Grades 4 – 8

“On your way to the New World...”

Your class has made the choice of coming to the New World. Your destination will be New York City. You will be transported to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. There are some things you must do before you prepare for this trip of a lifetime. As you complete these tasks, think about the new immigrant facing these same challenges. Think about what they feared; what their questions might have been; and most important, what their hopes for the New World were.

The activities begin with an overview of the National Park Service. We want all students to realize that besides being two famous tourist attractions, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are National Park sites. The National Park Service cares for some of the world’s most unique places. Our mission would not be successful without the help of all our visitors. Helping the ranger care for these places is everyone’s responsibility. We hope that you gain a better understanding of why we are here.

The following activities relate to the immigrant experience:

The Awaiting Journey – focusing on communication with relatives.

Traveling Steerage – packing for the journey.

Symbols of Liberty – first sights in the New World.

Medical Examination – facing the doctors at Ellis Island.

Legal Inspection – guardians at America’s gate.

Searching Your Roots – how to conduct an oral history.

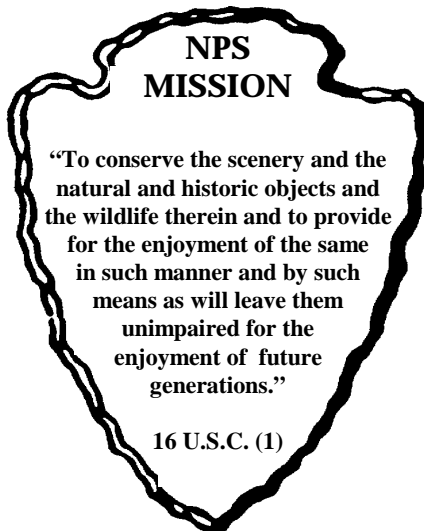
The Family Tree – managing your information.

Citizenship – the immigrant’s final step to Americanization.

The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are units of the National Park Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Interior.

For more information write to: **Statue of Liberty National Monument, Liberty Island, New York, NY 10004.**

Attn: Superintendent or find both sites on the internet at: **www.nps.gov/stli**



National Park Service:

an agency of the U.S. Department of Interior. This land management agency is responsible for administering over 80 million acres of federal land across the nation. Over 375 park sites are included in the National Park System. However, this agency was not even created yet when the world's first National Park, Yellowstone, was established in 1872. The U.S. Cavalry was responsible for our early National Parks until the National Park Service was created in 1916.

Today, the mission of this agency stands unchanged in its effort to protect and preserve America's National Parks for *"the enjoyment of future generations"*. The park you will soon visit is part of this system. The Statue of Liberty was declared a National Monument in 1924 and added to the National Park System in 1933. By 1937, the War Department, which had occupied Bedloe's Island for over 100 years, finally vacated. Ellis Island is also part of this park. It was added to the Statue of Liberty National Monument by Presidential Proclamation in 1965. After years of restoration during the 1980's, Ellis Island was opened to the public as an Immigration Museum in September 1990.

The most identifiable symbol of the National Park Service is the *arrowhead*. This logo, which can be found at every National Park site across the nation, symbolizes the various resources protected by this agency.



Activity : Can you match the symbols with their meanings?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Sequoia tree | A. Scenic values |
| _____ Bison | B. Historical & Archeological values |
| _____ Mountain | C. Wildlife |
| _____ Water | D. Vegetation |
| _____ Arrowhead shape | E. Recreational values |

Answers: D, C, A, E, and B.

All National Parks are staffed by uniformed *Park Rangers*. This highly specialized group of men and women are entrusted with caring for these wonderful places, performing all types of jobs.



Activity: What jobs do Park Rangers do to preserve & protect these resources ?

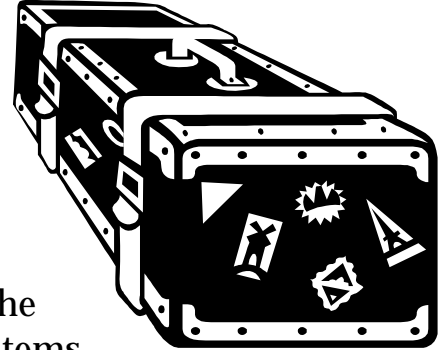
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Activity: Write a letter to a relative in America containing information about yourself, questions you might have, and anything you think is important to know. This will help prepare you for the steamship journey to America and the inspection at Ellis Island. Remember, the relative you write to has already been through this experience and can probably help you. Topics can include: questions about Ellis Island and expectations of the New World ie. (culture, food, employment, settlement locations, etc.) Bring this completed journal with you to Ellis Island. You may be asked to read it to the U.S. Immigration Inspector.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

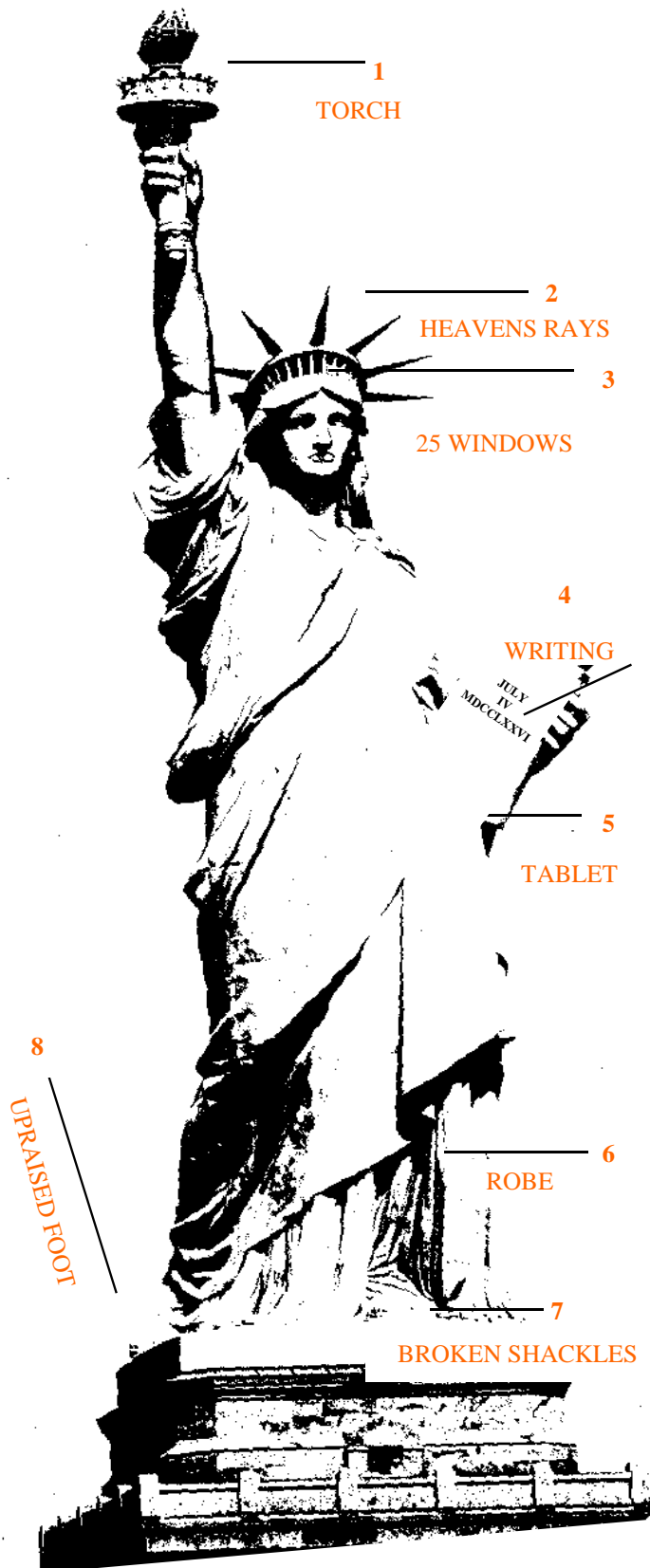
What will you bring to America?



Be prepared to explain why you chose these items.

[illegible]

Symbols of Liberty



When Frederic Auguste Bartholdi constructed the Statue of Liberty, he envisioned a colossal work of art that would be visible to everyone. He also incorporated symbols into this giant monument. Can you find these symbols?

Activity:

Discuss Bartholdi's use of symbols in the statue. Place a number next to the matching description.

- _____ Declaring our independence from Britain.
- _____ Freedom from tyranny.
- _____ Representation of law and order.
- _____ Leading the way to freedom.
- _____ Ancient goddess of liberty.
- _____ Enlightening the way to freedom.
- _____ Heaven's rays shining over the world.
- _____ Seas and continents of the world.



Inspection:

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Medical Inspection

All immigrants arriving to the U.S. were required to be inspected. The immigrant was medically inspected by the U.S. Public Health Service. The steerage immigrant received three medical exams before entering America.

1. Once before boarding the ship.
2. Once during the journey
3. The third at Ellis Island.

Remember that only steerage passengers were required to go to Ellis Island. First and second-class passengers were given their medical and legal inspections on board the steamship. As the immigrant entered the “Great Hall” of Ellis Island, they were greeted by physicians who inspected them in an average time of 6-seconds. During that time doctors were looking for symptoms of over 60 different diseases and ailments. Some included: *trachoma, diphtheria, tuberculosis, typhoid, measles, mental illness, senility, lameness, physical handicaps, or any ailment or contagious disease that would prevent an immigrant from earning a living or threaten the welfare of the public.*

Activity: Answer the following questions while thinking about how we treat certain illnesses and conditions today.

- Do you think the Government was fair in preventing immigrants from bringing these illnesses and conditions into the country ?

_____ Yes

_____ No

- What illnesses (conditions) do you think the Government is concerned with today? List some. _____

- What role does the public play in determining how our Gov't. treats people with certain conditions or diseases? _____

- Even though we are a nation of immigrants, do our laws sometimes reflect our fear of immigration? _____ Yes _____ No
If yes, can you describe any of them? _____



Legal Inspection

After the immigrant was given a medical exam, they would usually wait on benches in the “Great Hall” until the U.S. Immigration Inspector called them to the inspection desks. The inspector had the ship’s list of passengers called a ***Manifest***. This legal document had answers to numerous questions about an immigrant’s background. The immigrant had to furnish this information to the boat company at the time of their ticket purchase and boarding. In just few minutes legal inspection was usually completed. With the help of interpreters (if needed), immigrants repeated their answers for inspectors and most passed inspection. If an immigrant did not answer correctly, they were placed in detention rooms until a ***Board of Special Inquiry*** heard their case.

During the years 1892 – 1954, Ellis Island processed over 12 million immigrants. Of that figure, 98% passed inspection; only 2% (approx. 250,000 immigrants) were returned to their country of origin.

Activity: Look at the questions listed on the Manifest and see how you would answer them. Some questions were intentionally listed to make the immigrant fail.

U.S. Department of Labor
Immigration Service

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY INSPECTED

THIS SHEET FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS

_____Page

LIST OF MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Number on list. | 14. Whether having a ticket to final destination. | 23. Condition of Health |
| 2. Name in Full | 15. By whom was passage paid? | 24. Deformed or crippled |
| 3. Age | 16. Whether in possession of \$50. | 25. Height |
| 4. Sex | 17. Whether ever in U.S. before. | 26. Complexion |
| 5. Married / Single | 18. Whether going to join relative; if so, list name and address | 27. Color of eyes/hair |
| 6. Occupation | 19. Ever in prison, almshouse, institution for care of insane etc. | 28. Identifying marks |
| 7. Able to Read / Write | 20. Whether a Polygamist. | 29. Place of Birth |
| 8. Nationality | 21. Whether an Anarchist | Country: |
| 9. Race | 22. Whether coming with an offer, promise, or agreement of labor. | City/Town: |
| 10. Last Residence | | |
| 11. Name & Address of relative in native country | | |
| 12. Final Destination | | |
| 13. No. on list | | |

Hint: The most important questions were # 2, 6, 15, 16, and 22.

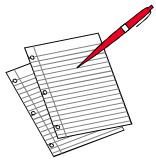
Searching for your family roots !



Whether or not anyone in your family was processed at Ellis Island, knowing about your family's history tells you something about yourself and who you are ! Immigrants of Ellis Island each have a unique story to tell, unfortunately we don't always think to ask them for the important answers that unlock the door to our family's past. These windows of opportunity can be an enlightening lesson about our own lives. **Your family** is still the best resource for information that can answer many of our questions. Official records of various Federal, State, and Local government agencies can also be helpful. This page will discuss various ways to research your family's roots.

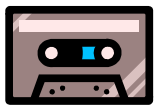
Conducting an oral history:

Before your trip to Ellis Island, ask various family members about their experiences in growing up, traveling, immigrating to new places, working in America, etc. If you are able to talk to relatives who may have immigrated to the United States and were processed at Ellis Island, ask them about their experiences. You may be surprised to find out details that are unique about your family or a particular member. Recording this primary information properly is extremely important. If you are interviewing a long lost relative, they'll probably be happy to see you again. Asking an elderly relative about their life is often very satisfying for them as well as you. Here are some ways to do this:



time.

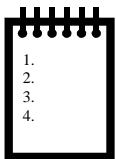
If you're a good note-taker, then record all questions and answers on paper. Don't rely on memory, we tend to remember things selectively. Include other information such as the date the interview took place and location. Good note-taking is a skill that takes practice. You may need some help at first to accurately listen and write at the same



Recording your interview may be the way to get started. **Remember, this technique should be used only if the person being interviewed knows they are being recorded and doesn't mind.** To prevent anyone from getting tired, these interviews should not last more than 45 – 60 minutes each. Make sure they know this before you begin.



If you want to record your interview on video, follow the same procedures as other recording techniques.



If you want to interview a relative who lives far away or may not feel comfortable being recorded, have them answer a prepared list of questions. This makes it easy for the person being interviewed to provide information at their own leisure. Some people feel more comfortable when they are not being electronically recorded.

See which technique works best for you.



THE FAMILY TREE

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Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Who Are We ?

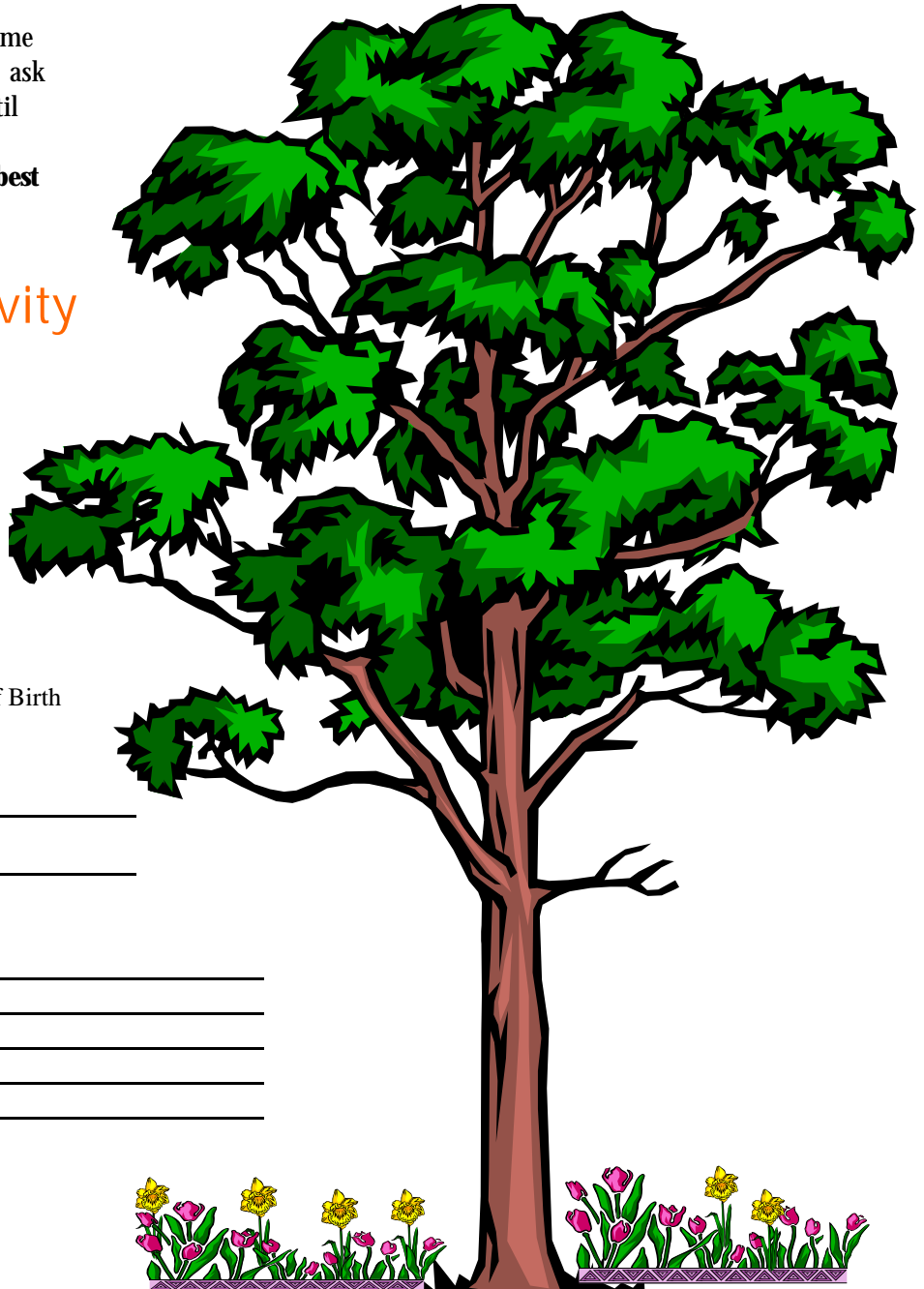
Knowing about our family and where we came from tells us who we are. We usually don't ask questions or wonder about our heritage until we ourselves are older. Sometimes we wait until there is no one left. **Remember, the best source of information is your family.**



Classroom Activity

Go on a fact-finding mission.
Interview family members and list important things about them.
Use these pages to start
Add more if you need to.

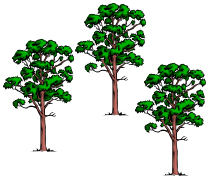
Remember to ask plenty of questions.



List name & Date of Birth

Father _____

Mother _____



Brothers
&
Sisters

About Yourself



Age: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Place of Birth: _____
Hobbies: _____

Family Name: _____



The Family Tree

Your Name _____



Classroom Activity Continued.

Grandparents (Father's side)
Name & Date of Birth

Grandparents (Mother's side)
Name & Date of Birth

Places of Birth

Father _____

Mother _____

Brothers/sisters _____

List other immediate family members (aunts/uncles etc.)

Paternal Grandfather _____

Paternal Grandmother _____

Maternal Grandfather _____

Maternal Grandmother _____

Family Events

Include any family events and dates which are significant to you: weddings, trips, reunions, achievements, and others events which remain with us for a lifetime.





***Remember that this list will not include everything about your family.
Add things that you feel are important to list and account for.***



Citizenship: *the realization of a dream...*



After an immigrant successfully completed the process at Ellis Island, they **did not** become U.S. citizens. These people were legally allowed to reside and work in the United States as “**legal aliens**“. Today, this is the equivalent of having a “**green card**“. It would generally take 5 years of residency in the country before one could apply for naturalization, which is the acquisition of citizenship other than birthright. The immigrant would also have to pass a test requiring a basic knowledge of American history, an understanding of the English language, and be an individual of good moral character. For millions of immigrants, citizenship was the final step to becoming “American“. Citizenship would grant full protection of the Constitution and the freedoms we all enjoy and sometimes take for granted, giving the immigrant the most important right of all... **the right to vote!**

List 5 problems that an alien might face as a result of not becoming an American citizen:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Citizenship Test: *The following questions are samples from the exam for Naturalization, which is a compilation of 100 questions that pertain to American History and government. You may also be asked to write a basic sentence in English. How many questions can you answer correctly ?*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who was the first President of the United States ? | 9. Can you name the 13 original Colonies ? |
| 2. What are the colors of our flag ? | 10. Who signs bills into law ? |
| 3. How many stripes are on our flag ?... Stars ? | 11. What is America's National Anthem called ? |
| 4. What is the 4th of July ? | 12. Who is the current President of the U.S. ? |
| 5. What is the Constitution ? | 13. Who were the first immigrants to the U.S.? |
| 6. What are the three branches in our government ? | 14. Whose rights are protected by the Constitution ? |
| 7. Who makes the laws in the United States ? | 15. What is the most important right granted to a citizen ? |
| 8. Which President freed the slaves ? | |

The Oath of Citizenship

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have hertofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God. In acknowledgment whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.”